

Amendments to the Claims

The following claims are presented in this application:

Claim 1 (withdrawn) An alkaline glass comprising:

a modified glass surface comprising an aluminum concentration which is markedly increased in relation to the aluminum concentration of the volume of the glass.

Claim 2 (previously presented) A process for the production of alkaline glasses with a modified glass surface, the process comprising the steps of:

bringing the surface of said glasses into contact with elevated levels of aluminum concentration; and

subjecting the surface of said glasses to a heat treatment.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein said elevated levels of aluminum concentration comprises $\text{alum (K Al (SO}_4)_2 \times 12 \text{ H}_2\text{O)}$ and/or AlCl_3 with and without water of crystallization.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein aluminum compounds in soluble form are applied to the surface of said glasses by dipping or spraying prior to the step of subjecting the glasses to heat treatment.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the elevated levels of aluminum concentration comprise an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^2 of glass surface area; and wherein the glass surface is then heated into the region of the transformation temperature of the glass ± 150 K.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the surface of said glasses is brought into contact with aluminum chloride compounds from the vapor phase for between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The process of claim 6, wherein the aluminum chloride compounds used correspond to an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^3 of contacting volume and the lower sample temperature of the glass surface is limited by the temperature change resistance of the glass and the upper sample temperature of the glass surface is up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The process of claim 6, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is between the sublimation temperature of 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the process is used in tube glass production and said gaseous phase aluminum chloride compound is urged through a tube similarly to the air in the Vello or Danner process.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A process for modifying the surface of an alkaline glass comprising the steps of:

- bringing the surface of the alkaline glass into contact with an aluminum compound in solution or vapor form; and
- subjecting the surface of the glass to a heat treatment.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The process of claim 10, wherein the aluminum compound comprises $(\text{K Al}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \times 12 \text{ H}_2\text{O})$ and/or AlCl_3 .

Claim 12 (previously presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the step of bringing the surface of the alkaline glass into contact with an aluminum compound in solution or vapor form is accomplished by spraying a solution comprising an aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass or dipping the alkaline glass in a solution comprising an aluminum compound.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the application of aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^2 of glass surface area.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The process of claim 10, wherein the surface of the alkaline glass is brought into contact with an aluminum chloride vapor for between 0.1 second and an hour.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The process of claim 14, wherein the application of aluminum compound on the surface of the alkaline glass is accomplished in an amount of at least 0.1 g/m^3 of contacting volume.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the temperature of the aluminum chloride compounds is between 170°C and up to 600 K above the transformation temperature of the glass.